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Der Doktor

...here in West Germany last week two of the free world's top intelligence chiefs met in secret conference. One was pipe-smoking Allen Dulles, head of the U.S.'s Central Intelligence Agency. The other, shadowy Reinhard Gehlen, 58, head of West Germany's Federal Intelligence Service and a man who has been giving the Communists fits for nearly 20 years.

Under Cover Names. The Communists have tried hard to eliminate Gehlen. In a 1953 ambush on a lonely road near Munich, Gehlen escaped death only because his windshield was of bulletproof glass. Attempts to get at his wife and four children have been narrowly frustrated. Gehlen travels under a variety of cover names and has not been photographed since the war years. Unable to do him bodily harm, the Communists scream that Gehlen is the high priest of a revived Nazism (he never joined the Nazi Party); the current Red line is that Gehlen is plotting the rescue of Mass Murderer Adolf Eichmann from the Israelis.

As a career officer in the Wehrmacht, Gehlen had access of intelligence on the Russian Eastern Front. Late in 1944 he reported that the Russians were planning a huge, and, he said, accurate, pre-emptive strike that would crush the Nazis' Eastern army. Later, raged that Gehlen's report was the greatest bluff since General Kluge's, Gehlen threatened that he should be court-martialed in a drum. Replied Chief of Staff Heinz Guderian: "Then send me to the front."

After the Allies moved in, Gehlen looked to the West, realizing that the U.S. and the British would be the next antagonists. He began to collect important documents and reports from the Germans in Bavaria. Then he began to collect officers of his staff to go with him.

He and his staff went for word from him to the West, where he was set up in a mountain chalet. The chalet was later marched down to the West, where he was set up in a mountain chalet.

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alarms; they knew a lot more about the Russians than anyone we had."

Sliding Doors. After West Germany became a sovereign state in 1955, the new government took over Gehlen's operation. For the past 13 years Gehlen has been established in the village of Pullach, some five miles from Munich, in a tree-shaded compound on the banks of the Isar River. Surrounded by a 10-ft. concrete wall, the compound looks like a housing development, with neat lawns and flower beds, lace-curtained villas and administration buildings. At each entrance are electrically operated sliding doors of steel mesh, with sentry boxes manned by armed and uniformed guards. Gehlen's own headquarters are separately enclosed by a steel fence, and his paneled, second-floor office contains only one symbol of his profession: a box of cigars labeled *Geheimdienst* (Secret Service). (In Washington, Allen Dulles also keeps a rag pup on his desk—a plaster statuette of a pup with a cloak and dagger.)

Gehlen, like Dulles, has a rather professorial air. Of medium height, with square, leathery face, blue eyes, a large forehead, outsize ears and a thin brown mustache, Gehlen's manner is a courteous blend of wit and erudition, but he has a steely core of devotion to duty and Germany. The victories and defeats of the Gehlen organization are seldom publicized. He is known to have been instrumental in virtually destroying the 1948 Czech spy ring in West Germany and in duping the Soviets for two years with a high-placed double agent. It was Gehlen who managed the remarkable feat of planting an agent in the Cabinet of East Germany's Red boss, Walter Ulbricht, and when the Communists finally caught on, spiriting him to safety in the West.

Gehlen's group numbers some 5,000 fulltime members and another 5,000 occasional employees, all of whom refer to him as "der Doktor." The organization operates on two fronts: it collects and evaluates intelligence targets and, behind the Iron Curtain, directs foreign agents operating in West Germany who may be arrested. Since 1951, Communist arrests as to the number of 1,799 have been jailed in West Germany and another 19,000 detected but unpunished—mostly people who confessed voluntarily or proved that they had been intimidated and had done no damage.



GERMANY'S GEHLEN (1944)
in airborne U-2.

Double Trouble. Gehlen agents come in four categories: 1) those who penetrate the various Red parties and administrations; 2) those who live near important target areas or in close contact with important Communist personages and can therefore make continuing reports; 3) itinerant travelers trained to keep their eyes peeled for specific subjects of interest; 4) double agents, *i.e.*, spies who are ostensibly working for the Communists but actually work for the West. Gehlen does not engage in such activities as sowing unrest in East Germany or attempting to stir up riots or sabotage.

courage insurrection if it is not to be supported by military help from the West.

Germans are proud of Gehlen's professional competence. When he was leaving for the U.S. early last month, West German Defense Minister Franz-Josef Strauss was jokingly asked if he planned to buy a U-2 spy plane in Washington. Cracked Strauss: "What would we do with it? Our man Gehlen does things better—and he has never been caught."